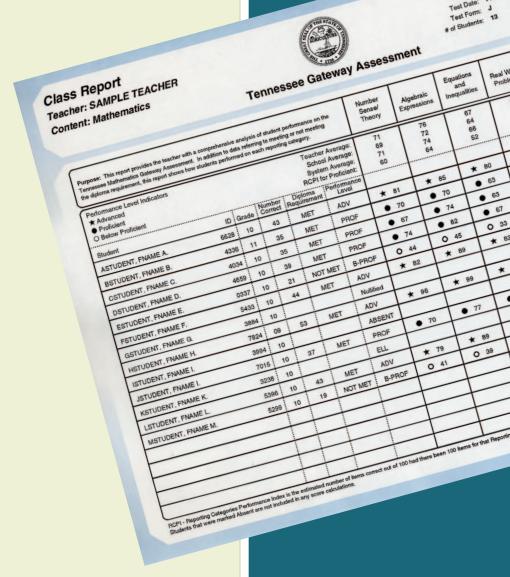
## **Guide to Test Report Interpretation**

2004–2005 Tennessee Gateway and End of Course Assessments



Tennessee Department of Education Evaluation and Assessment Division



How to interpret Gateway and End of Course (EOC) test results and use the information to analyze performance strengths and areas possibly needing additional attention



### **CONTENTS**

Understanding Gateway and End of Course Results	i
Criterion-Referenced Tests	ii
Features Included on All Reports	1
Reports	
Individual Profile Report	3
Class Report	3
Performance Summary Report by School/Teacher	4
Performance Level Summary Report by School	5
Performance Level Summary Report by System	6
Demographic Summary Report	7
Utilizing Gateway and EOC Results	8



## UNDERSTANDING GATEWAY AND END OF COURSE RESULTS

This Guide was prepared to help you understand Gateway and End of Course (EOC) assessment results and assist you in applying these results to improve educational opportunities for your students. The results contained in these reports are an important source of test information and are helpful in making important decisions regarding instructional needs for classes and individual students. The test scores reported in these reports are based on a sample of all possible test questions and are only one measure of a student's performance. It is important to consider multiple sources of student achievement before making decisions about students' instructional placement.

For more information about the Gateway or EOC Programs, please visit the 'TESTS' area of the Department of Education on the Web: Department of Education: http://www.state.tn.us/education.htm

REPORT	MODE/ LEVEL	TOTAL COPIES	TEACHER	SCHOOL	SYSTEM
Individual Profile Report	Student	2	1	1	
Class Report	Teacher	2	1	1	
Performance Summary Report	School	1		1	
Performance Summary Report	System	1			1
Performance Level Summary Report	School	2		1	1
Performance Level Summary Report	System	1			1
Demographic Summary Report	School	1		1	
Demographic Summary Report	System	1			1

If, after reading this Guide, you have further questions about Gateway or EOC test results, please contact:

#### JENNIFER LEATHERS, VICKY SMITH, or MARY E. TAYLOR

Program Managers Gateway Testing Initiative (615) 741-0720

Tennessee Department of Education Evaluation & Assessment Division 7th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower 710 James Roberson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Copyright © 2005 by State of Tennessee Department of Education. Only Tennessee state educators and citizens may copy and/or download and print the document, located online at http://www.state.tn.us/education.htm. Any other use or reproduction of this document, in whole or in part, requires written approval of the State of Tennessee Department of Education.

#### **CRITERION-REFERENCED TESTS**

Gateway and EOC assessments are Tennessee-specific, criterion-referenced tests which allow users to interpret scores in comparison to Tennessee's Curriculum Standards. The Curriculum Standards, as defined by the State of Tennessee, provide objectives for student accomplishment in each of the courses tied to the Gateway and EOC assessments. For Gateway these courses include: Algebra I for Mathematics, Biology I for Science, and English II for Language Arts. For EOC these courses include: Math Foundations II, English I, Physical Science, and U.S. History. From these objectives, Performance Indicators were written to describe how the objectives would be measured.

On the Gateway and EOC criterion-referenced tests, each test item is directly linked to a Performance Indicator. The Performance Indictors were clustered into Reporting Categories for the reports described in this document.

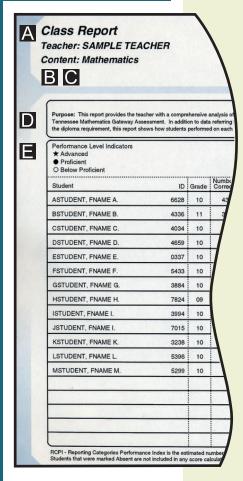
Student mastery of the total test and each Reporting Category is reported as the Performance Level. Performance Levels (Below Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced) were established through intensive standard-setting procedures, which included Tennessee Teachers and were approved by the State Board of Education. The Number Correct scores associated with each Performance Level vary somewhat depending on psychometric values of the items in each test.

Examples of questions for each Gateway and EOC course Performance Indicator can be found on the web in Item Samplers at the following address: <a href="http://www.state.tn.us/education/tssamplers.htm">http://www.state.tn.us/education/tssamplers.htm</a>

#### INTERVENTION

Gateway assessments are a graduation requirement for students seeking a regular high school diploma in Tennessee. This requirement applies to all students who entered 9th grade in Fall 2001 and thereafter. Any student who does not meet the minimum proficiency level on a Gateway assessment will need to retake that particular test. Schools are required to offer Intervention to these students. Students who score Below Proficient on End of Course tests are also eligible for Intervention. The Intervention should be based on individual student needs. wherein students receive remediation in the specific Reporting Categories where weaknesses were noted. Gateway reports provide an indication of those areas where students may need Intervention. It is important to consider multiple sources of information before making decisions about students' instructional placement. Questions regarding Intervention should be directed to Deborah Williams in the State Department of Education's Curriculum and Instruction Division at (615) 253-5710 or Deborah. Williams@state.tn.us.

#### FEATURES INCLUDED ON ALL REPORTS



- A Name of report appears in the upper left hand corner.
- Every report indicates the Program (Gateway or End of Course) and the Content area.
- Every report indicates the Teacher, System, and School.
- Every report contains a purpose statement. The reader is introduced to the reason for the report and how the information may be used.
- Students receive the following Scores on these reports:
  Number Correct This is the number of questions the student answered correctly on the total test. Number Correct is also called Total Raw Score

Performance Level – Based on the number of questions answered correctly, the student will be classified as: Below Proficient, Proficient, or Advanced. Students scoring Proficient or Advanced are considered to have met the requirements for the test. Performance Levels are applied to Number Correct scores and to RCPI scores. Following is a description of each Performance Level.

- O Below Proficient This means that the student did not answer enough questions correctly to satisfy the requirements of the State of Tennessee. Students scoring Below Proficient may need additional instructional support, which could be in the form of Intervention.
- Proficient This means the student responded correctly to enough questions to show that he or she has successfully mastered the content area.
- Advanced This means the student responded correctly to enough questions to show mastery higher than the minimum requirement.

Reporting Category Performance Index (RCPI) – For each Reporting Category, the RCPI is an estimate of the number of items a student would be expected to answer correctly if there had been 100 such items for that category. For example, a RCPI of 72 means the student would be expected to get 72 items out of 100 correct.

RCPI Performance Level – Based on the student's RCPI for each Reporting Category, the student will be classified as: O Below Proficient,

■ Proficient, or ★ Advanced in each Reporting Category. It is possible for a student to be Proficient in the total test, but be Below Proficient in one or more parts of the test. It is also possible for a student to be Profi-

cient on the total test, but Advanced in one or more areas of the test.

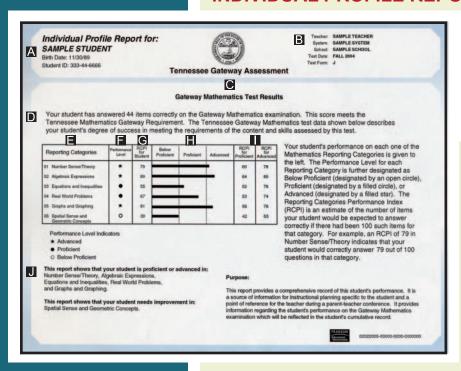
#### INDIVIDUAL PROFILE REPORT

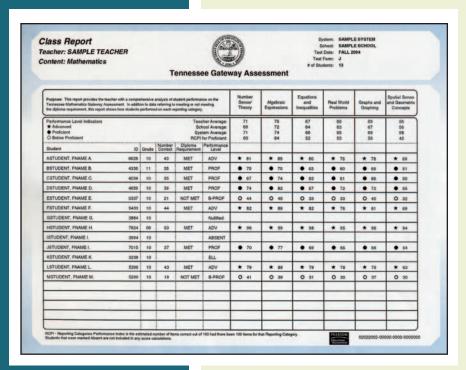
The Individual Profile Report (IPR) is intended primarily for teachers. A copy will also be provided to the student's parents. The IPR provides information regarding a student's performance on the total test and in each Reporting Category. RCPI results can be used to help identify areas of student strengths and needs in each Reporting Category. This report provides important information that can be used for instructional planning specific to the student and a point of reference for the teacher during a parent-teacher conference. Additional information from a student's classroom performance is also essential in sound instructional planning.

- A Identifies the student's name and identifying information.
- B Identifies the student's teacher, school system, school name, the testing date and the test form.
- Gives the name of the test.
- Offers a brief description of how the student scored on the test. Here you will find the Number Correct score on the total test. Based on the number of questions answered correctly, the student will be considered to have met or to have not met the requirements for the test.
- Shows the content areas of the test called "Reporting Categories."

  Performance on each Reporting Category shows where the student is stronger and weaker across different content areas of the test.
- Shows a symbol for each Reporting Category that indicates the student's Performance Level in each Reporting Category.
- Shows the student's Reporting Category Performance Index (RCPI) for each Reporting Category. The RCPI is an estimate of the number of items the student would be expected to answer correctly if there had been 100 such items for that category.
- The bar graph representing how the student performed in each reporting category based on the RCPI.
- Shows the RCPI needed for each Reporting Category to reach the Proficient and Advanced levels.
- Lists the Reporting Categories where the student was classified as Proficient or Advanced.

#### INDIVIDUAL PROFILE REPORT





# PERFORMANCE LEVEL O Below Proficient Proficient Advanced

#### **CLASS REPORT**

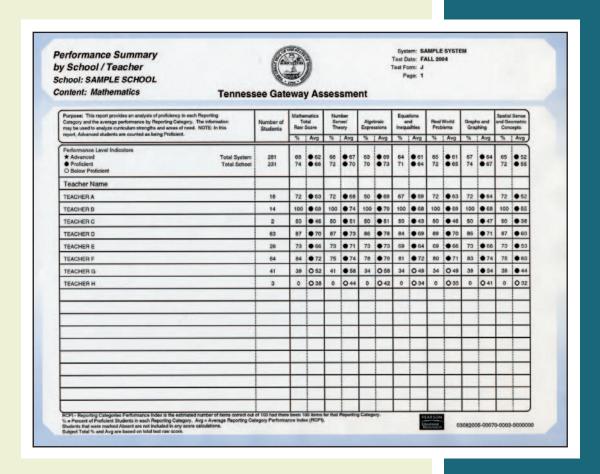
The Class Report summarizes results from the Individual Profile Reports, showing how students performed on the total test and in each Reporting Category. Students are listed alphabetically. To the right of each student name is the student's Grade, Number Correct score on the total test, and Performance Level on the total test. In addition, each student's RCPI Performance Level and RCPI score is presented for each Reporting Category. Included at the top, is the average RCPI number by teacher, school, and system for each Reporting Category. Also, displayed at the top is the RCPI needed for each Reporting Category to reach the Proficient level

This summarized data can be used to identify the specific areas in which a student had difficulty on this assessment. This report provides valuable information for helping determine, in conjunction with other information, which students may need Intervention. In addition, the results can be used to help individualize the student's Intervention program so as to concentrate study in areas of need to maximize potential of student success when retaking the test.

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL SUMMARY REPORT BY SCHOOL/TEACHER

The Performance Summary Report by School/Teacher provides an analysis of proficiency in each Reporting Category for teachers in a school. The report shows the percentage of students at Proficient and above, and the average RCPI for each Reporting Category. In addition, the report shows the percentage of students at Proficient and above on the total test and the average Total Raw Score. The report also shows the Number of Students in each group. Comparisons may be made to system and state results, which are presented at the top of the table.

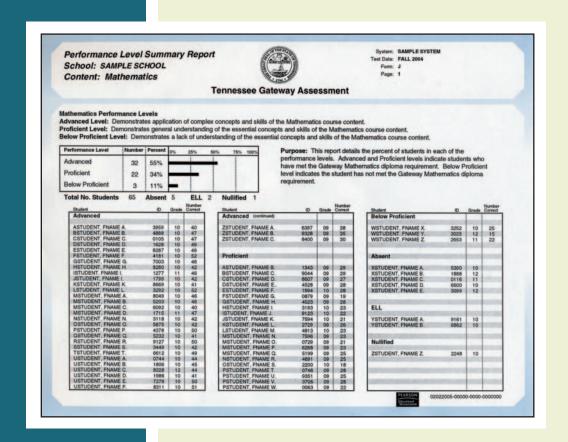
This information in this report may be used to analyze curriculum strengths and areas of need for teachers/schools based on this assessment. This report is also created at the System/School level and at the State level. The Performance Summary Report by System/School has a line for each School in a System.



## PERFORMANCE LEVEL SUMMARY REPORT BY SCHOOL

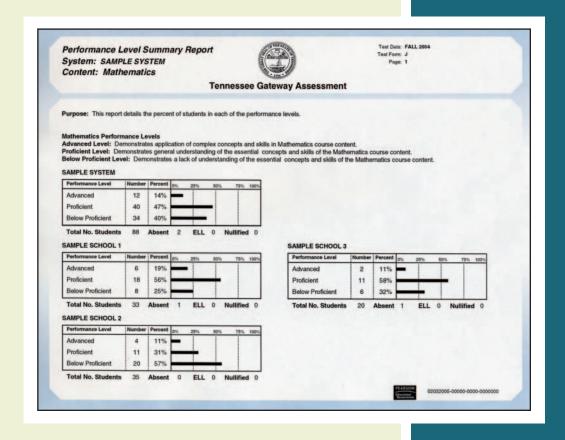
The Performance Level Summary Report by School provides a snapshot of the achievement of a class or group. The table on page 1 shows the number and percentage of students in each of the Performance Levels. Bars graphically represent the percentage of students in each Performance Level. The Total Number of Students, and the numbers of students who were Absent, ELL, and Nullified are indicated under each table. Absent, ELL, and Nullified students are not included in the student totals for the schools.

Descriptors, associated with each Performance Level, are presented above the table on page 1. Following the table are lists of students' names and their Number Correct scores. The students are listed alphabetically within each Performance Level. This provides a record of individual achievement on each assessment.



## PERFORMANCE LEVEL SUMMARY REPORT BY SYSTEM

The Performance Level Summary Report by System provides a snapshot of the achievement of students attending the various schools that belong to a system. For each school in the system there is a table (like the one found on the Performance Level Summary Report by School). Each table shows the number and percentage of students in each of the Performance Levels for the school. Bars graphically represent the percentage of students in each Performance Level. The Total Number of Students and the number of students who were Absent, ELL, and Nullified are indicated under each table. Absent, ELL, and Nullified students are not included in the student totals for the schools. Descriptors, associated with each Performance Level, are presented above the tables on page 1.



#### DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY REPORT

The Demographic Summary Report displays the percentage of students at Proficient and above, and the average RCPI for each Reporting Category for various groups of students based on demographic variables. In addition, the report shows the percentage of students at Proficient and above on the total test and the average Total Raw Score. The groups include: All Students, General Education, Special Education, Gifted, Modified Format, ELL, Migrant, Non-ELL, Title I, Gender, and Ethnicity. Comparisons on the school report may be made to system and state results for All Students, which are presented at the top of the table on the Demographic Summary Report.

The Demographic Summary Report is also produced at the System and State levels. To protect students' confidentiality, no data are reported when there are fewer than 10 students or the category = 100%. Each of the demographic groups included in the report are briefly defined below.

All Students includes all students who took the test and have a valid score. Students who were Absent, Nullified, and ELL exempt are excluded from All Students.

General Education includes all students except those who are in Special Education, Gifted, ELL, and Title I programs. Migrant students are also excluded from General Education. Results for General Education are presented separately for students with a 504 Service Plan (504 Students) and for students without accommodations.

Special Education includes students in a Special Education program. Results are reported for students with and without accommodations.

Gifted includes students participating in a gifted program.

Modified Format results are reported for students who took Braille and Large Print versions of the assessment.

ELL (English Language Learners) Not all ELL students are ELL exempt (see Section III, 2004-2005 English Language Learner Accommodations and Expectations for guidelines). The results are reported for ELL students with and without accommodations, and for T1/T2 students.

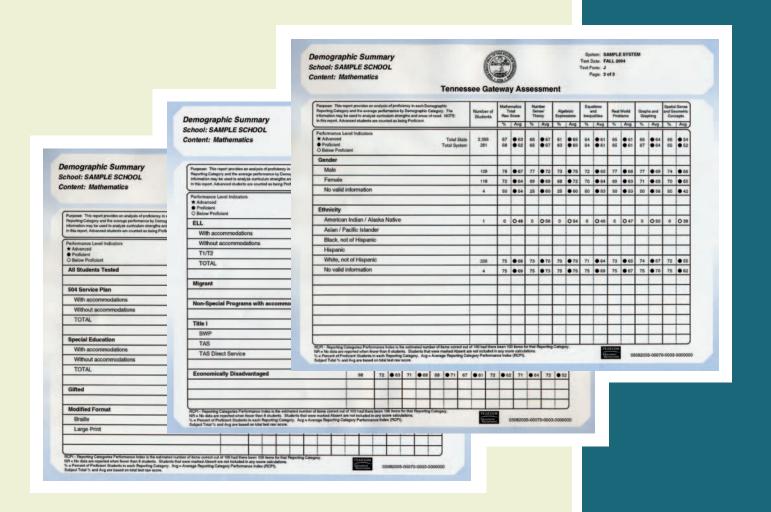
Migrant students are students who qualify with a Migrant Education Certification of Eligibility (COE). For more information contact the local Title I Director.

Non-ELL (Non-English Language Learners) Results are presented for Non-ELL students with and without accommodations.

Title I students are students who live in eligible attendance areas, fit the criteria for selection to participate in the federal Title I program, and receive federal Title I services. Results are presented for Title I students who are in Title I School-wide Programs (SWP), in Targeted Assistance Schools (TAS), and for students receiving direct Title I assistance (TAS Direct Service).

Gender includes the following groups: Males, Females, and students with No valid information.

Ethnicity includes the following groups: American Indian / Alaska Native; Asian / Pacific Islander; Black, not Hispanic; Hispanic; White not of Hispanic; and No valid information.



#### UTILIZING GATEWAY AND END OF COURSE RESULTS

Each of these reports generated from the Gateway and EOC assessments are intended to assist the educators of Tennessee in providing quality education to their students.

The individual Profile Report allows students, their parents, and teachers to see specific strengths and needs in each content area based on this assessment. For students who do not meet the graduation proficiency requirement for the Gateway tests and for students who score Below Proficient on EOC assessments, it can help determine appropriate intervention.

The Class Report provides teachers and administrators with an overall picture of the strengths and needs of each student within the class as well as the class's performance in relation to the entire school and the district. Teachers and administrators should use this report to analyze overall student performance. The Number Correct will translate to a grade to be averaged into the semester grade. This grade translation is determined by the system. The Reporting Category Performance Index (RCPI) data details student performance in each reporting category to assist in evaluation and remediation.

The Performance Summary by School/Teacher provides an analysis of curriculum strengths and needs of classes of students. Teachers may want to spend additional time focusing on areas where improvement may be needed. The Performance Summary Report is also issued by System/School and by State.

The Performance Level Summary Report by School is primarily utilized for reporting purposes. Page one allows administrators a snapshot of the school performance in each content area while all subsequent pages provide guidance counselors a comprehensive list of students tested, their number correct and performance level.

The Performance Level Summary Report by System provides system level administrators with a tool for evaluating the overall performance of each school within the system. Advanced and Proficient levels indicate the students who have met the diploma requirements for Gateway tests.

The Demographic Summary Report provides school and system level administrators with a tool for evaluating school performance for various groups of students based on several demographic variables. The groups include: All Students, General Education, Special Education, Gifted, Modified Format, ELL, Migrant, Non-ELL, Title I, Gender, and Ethnicity. The information may be used to analyze overall performance and help identify areas of need for these groups of students.

